Chika Shiomi
CANON
1

CANON

Volume 1

By Chika Shiomi

HUFF HUFF
EVEN NOW, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE DYING...
YOU'RE SUFFERING, AREN'T YOU...?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SHALL I DELIVER YOU FROM YOUR DISEASE?

CONTENTS

NIGHTMARE 5
CRUZ 51
SAKAKI 103
HALF 149
SHIOMI'S THRILLING EVERYDAY AFFAIRS 195

NIGHTMARE
YES. I WILL SAVE YOU...
...FROM YOUR FEAR OF DEATH.

HOMELESS DUDE OR NOT, CHALK UP ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS DEATH...
...AND I BET YOU WE'RE GONNA HAVE A FIELD DAY WITH IT!
AND AT THE SAME PLACE!
KEEP OUT
BUZZ
WHAT SHOULD'VE BEEN YOUNG KIDS' BODIES WERE ALL SHRIVELED UP LIKE OLD FOLKS...
THE CORPSES THEY FOUND THEN WERE JUST LIKE THAT!
BUZZ
MAN, MUST BE ROUGH FOR YOU, HAVING THAT GET BROUGHT UP AGAIN.
RIGHT.
AH... YEAH.
NO, YOUR YOUNGER SISTER, RIGHT?
ISHIKAWA, SIX MONTHS AGO, YOU LOST YOUR OLDER SISTER...?
BUT A HOMELESS GUY DIES... OR IS KILLED... AT THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL. WHY?
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO JUST STANDING AROUND FOR?!

FLASH
FLASH
MOVE IT, PEOPLE!
BACK UP! WE'RE COMIN' THROUGH!!
VROOOO
BAM
HEY, DID YOU SEE THAT?
THAT BODY...
THIS IS LIKE A REPEAT OF WHAT HAPPENED HALF A YEAR AGO, RIGHT DOWN TO THE BODY!

PINCH
K...
THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND, SO KEEP QUIET.
KA...
K...
RUSTLE...
KA...
KA...
BUZZ
BUZZ
NICHI-TRIBUNE
HEY, ISHIKAWA! IT'S NOT SO BUSY NOW, SO GO AHEAD AND GRAB SOME DINNER!
NOW OR NEVER, BABY!
AH! OKAY, THANKS

YEESH, WHAT'S UP WITH TSUZUKI?
YOU'D THINK SHE'D HAVE A LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR YOU...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, OTAKE-SAN. IT'S WORK, THAT'S ALL...
S-SORRY.
DID YOU GET PICTURES ?!
I WOULD THINK YOU'D BE TOO BUSY TO CHEW THE FAT...!
DON'T WASTE TIME APOLOGIZING! JUST GET BACK TO THE OFFICE! AND DON'T DAWDLE!!
BUMP
AH! SORR...
KA...
NOTHING...
WHAT IS IT, ISHIKAWA?

...39 STUDENTS... DIED AN "UNNATURAL DEATH."
THERE WAS ONLY ONE SURVIVOR IN THE CLASSROOM THAT DAY...
...AND HER NAME WAS CANON HIMURO.

SIX MONTHS AGO...
AH...
WHEN'D I LAST TAKE IT OUT...?
HEY... WHERE'S MY WALLET?
BE LUCKY TO FIND ANYTHING IN THIS MESS...
...HERE IT IS...
...WHILE PREPARING FOR A HIGH SCHOOL EVENT AFTER SCHOOL, ONE CLASS...
ONII-CHAN*!
* BIG BROTHER

BUT DAYS LATER, SHE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE...
...TAKING WITH HER...
...THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT.
THEY'RE SAYING THE STIFF THEY FOUND LAST NIGHT HAD TWO HOLES IN THE NECK?
YEAH, POOR GUY JUST BLED OUT...
BUZZ BUZZ
AKIKO!
AKIKO...!
YEAH, NOW THAT WAS A BIZARRO CASE.
BET YOU WE NEVER FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.
GOTTA BE SOME SICKO BEHIND IT...
MAYBE AN OCCULT FANATIC...
...PROBABLY COPY-CATTING WHAT WENT DOWN HALF A YEAR AGO.
14
AKIKO...!!
ALL WE CAN DO NOW...
STILL, I'D RATHER DIE AN "UNEXPLAINED" DEATH...
...THAN GET DONE IN BY SOME FREAK!
.....
WHUMP
...IS LABEL THE CASE AN UNSOLVED MYSTERY.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THEY SUDDENLY DIED OF HEART FAILURE, OUT OF EXHAUSTION, FOR EXAMPLE...
...BUT CONSIDERING THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT 39 PEOPLE HERE, IT'S A VERY REMOTE POSSIBILITY.
THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS UNKNOWN.
WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY EXTERNAL WOUNDS OR SIGNS OF POISONING.
15

KA... KAKA...
!
...A CROW ...?
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
KA--
KAWWW
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T FIND OUT HOW...
YOU LOOKIN' TO GET EATEN BY A MONSTER, BUDDY?
WANDERING AROUND HERE LATE AT NIGHT...

...IS STILL UNDETERMINED.
WHETHER SOMEONE WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST THE CLASS EXISTS...
AKIKO... IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE NO CLOSER TO FINDING AN EXPLANATION FOR YOUR DEATHS THAN THEY WERE SIX MONTHS AGO...
...AND NOW THERE'S ANOTHER ONE.

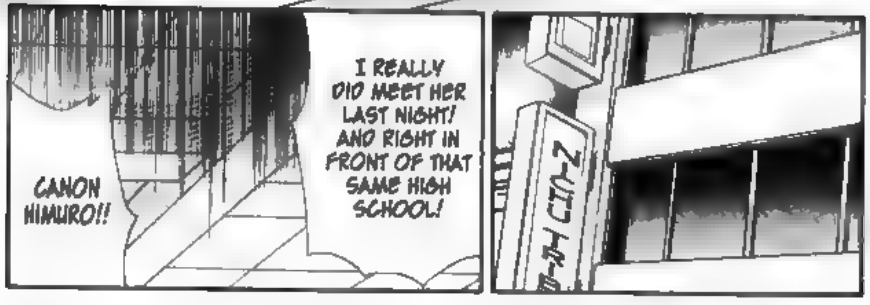
GYAAA! GYAAA! GYAAA!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! STUPID CROW!!
THE SECOND I TURN MY BACK...!
I'M SORRY. THIS DUMB BIRD ONLY REMEMBERS HOW TO SAY BAD STUFF HE HEARS...
YOU DON'T THROW ROCKS AT ME, BITCH!!
GYAAA
GYAAA
THAT GIRL...
SHE'S...

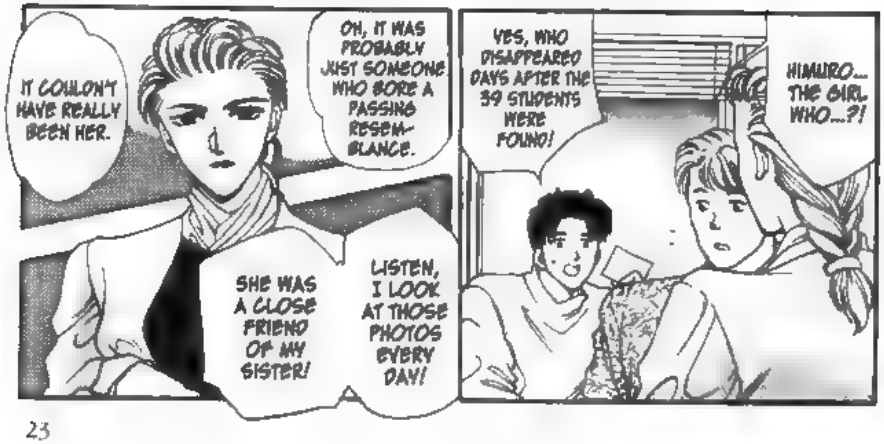
SO HOW 'BOUT ME INSTEAD? I'D LOVE TO RIP YOU APART AND DEVOUR YOUR FLESH-CHUNKS!!
UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED THEN, HE AIN'T GONNA SHOW HIMSELF SO EASILY!
FLAP FLAP
FLAP
?!
KA KA KA KA
...BUT NO WAY IT CAN TALK LIKE THIS!!
WH-WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE...?!
MAYBE A CROW CAN IMITATE HUMAN SPEECH...
KA KA
GYAAA!
KA
!

...AREN'T YOU?
YOU ARE HER...
WAIT ...!
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GIRL.

...BUT...
...SHE DOES LOOK LIKE HER...
SHE'S THE ONE I BUMPED INTO YESTERDAY...
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION AT THE TIME...
AH... WAIT! AREN'T YOU...
WELL, I'VE GOT TO BE GOING. I'M SORRY AGAIN THAT HE BOTHERED YOU.
...KIMURO?
CANON...

FROM THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE...
...I GATHER SHE WAS ONE OF YOUR CLASSMATES WHO GOT DRAINED.
AKIKO?


I REALLY DID MEET HER LAST NIGHT! AND RIGHT IN FRONT OF THAT SAME HIGH SCHOOL!
CANON HIMURO!!


IT COULDN'T HAVE REALLY BEEN HER.
OH, IT WAS PROBABLY JUST SOMEONE WHO BORE A PASSING RESEMBLANCE.
SHE WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF MY SISTER!
LISTEN, I LOOK AT THOSE PHOTOS EVERY DAY!
YES, WHO DISAPPEARED DAYS AFTER THE 39 STUDENTS WERE FOUND!
HIMURO... THE GIRL WHO...?!

EH?
WA!...
I DON'T REMEMBER HIM...
WHO IS HE...?
SOMETHING ABOUT NOT KNOWING HOW "AKIKO" DIED.
I SAW HIM TALKING TO HIMSELF BEFORE

.....
I DON'T BLAME HER.
IF I WERE HER, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME EITHER...
...BUT NOW, BROTHER! IT'S LIKE PERMANENT PMS!
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN A BIT OF A TYRANT...
OH, MAYBE SHE'S JUST GETTING SWAMPED WITH WORK LATELY...
SNOWING...
ISHIKAWA-KUN...

THEN YOU DON'T HAVE A LEG TO STAND ON. IT WAS SOMEBODY ELSE, LIKE I SAID.
FWAP
EH...
...HMPH.
AH...NO, ACTUALLY.
OKAY, TELL ME THIS. WAS THE KIMURA-SAN YOU SAW LAST NIGHT...
...AS SKINNY AS SHE IS IN THIS PHOTO?
SHE SEEMED A LITTLE HEALTHIER THAN HERE...
...SUFFERED FROM AN INCURABLE DISEASE.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT?
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE...?!
CANON KIMURA...
REALLY, WHAT'S UP TSUZUKI'S ASS THESE DAYS?
...BUT HE SHORT-CHANGED YOU IN THE BRAINS DEPARTMENT.
YOU'VE GOT A GOD-GIVEN TALENT FOR PHOTOGRAPHY...
HEY!
MAYBE I COULD BELIEVE YOU IF YOU SAID SHE WAS SKINNY...
...BUT "HEALTHY?" NO WAY.

DESPITE WHAT I SAID EARLIER...
...ALL OF A SUDDEN?
SO WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE CHANGE OF HEART...
YOU ARE GOING BACK THERE, AREN'T YOU? WHERE YOU SAW CANON HIMURO...
LET ME GO WITH YOU.
TSUZUKI-SAN...
I THOUGHT YOU'D ALREADY GONE HOME...
I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID BEFORE...
...THE TRICK TO GETTING A SCOOP...
...LIES IN KEEPING YOUR LEAD A SECRET FROM EVERYONE, COLLEAGUES ESPECIALLY!
MAYBE, BUT..
...UP ON THAT ROOF...
WAIT...
.....
BUT I'M ALMOST POSI-TIVE...
I DON'T THINK SO. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...?
EH?
IS IT MY IMAG-INATION? I THOUGHT I SAW SOME-ONE...
SNISH
!

SEE? NO ONE IS HERE. IT MUST'VE BEEN YOUR IMAGINATION. WHY WOULD ANYBODY BE ON THE ROOF?
?
I FIGURED IF I HAVE TO FEED...
SELL A LOT OF PAPERS, THAT'S FOR SURE.
IT'LL MAKE THREE INCIDENTS AT THE SAME SCHOOL.
FOR FUN, OF COURSE.

LOOK! AREN'T THOSE EMERGENCY STAIRS?
TSUZUKI-SAN?!
WE CAN GET UP TO THE ROOF.
IF WE GET CAUGHT, SAVING SORRY'S NOT GONNA DO IT!
WE'LL BE CHARGED WITH TRESPASSING!
I REALLY DON'T THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA!
TSUZUKI-SAN, WAIT!
CLANG CLANG
WELL, THAT WAS A SURPRISE... THE DOOR MUST'VE BEEN RUSTED THROUGH...
SMASH
SSSHH...
TSUZUKI SAN

DIDN'T YOU STOP AND WONDER WHERE ALL THE BLOOD WENT?!
THIS WHOLE WORLD IS FILLED WITH FOOLS!!
AND YOU'RE NO EXCEPTION!!
GLO
MP

BLOOD AND CIRCUSES, RIGHT?
...I MIGHT AS WELL ENTERTAIN THE WORLD AT THE SAME TIME!

DON'T YOU WONDER WHY THE CORPSE WAS SHRIVELED AND LOST SO MUCH BLOOD...!!

TSUZUKI-SAN...?!

WHUDD
?!
!

UWAAAAAA!
...WEREN'T YOU?
YOU WERE MADE TO DRINK A VAMPIRE'S BLOOD..

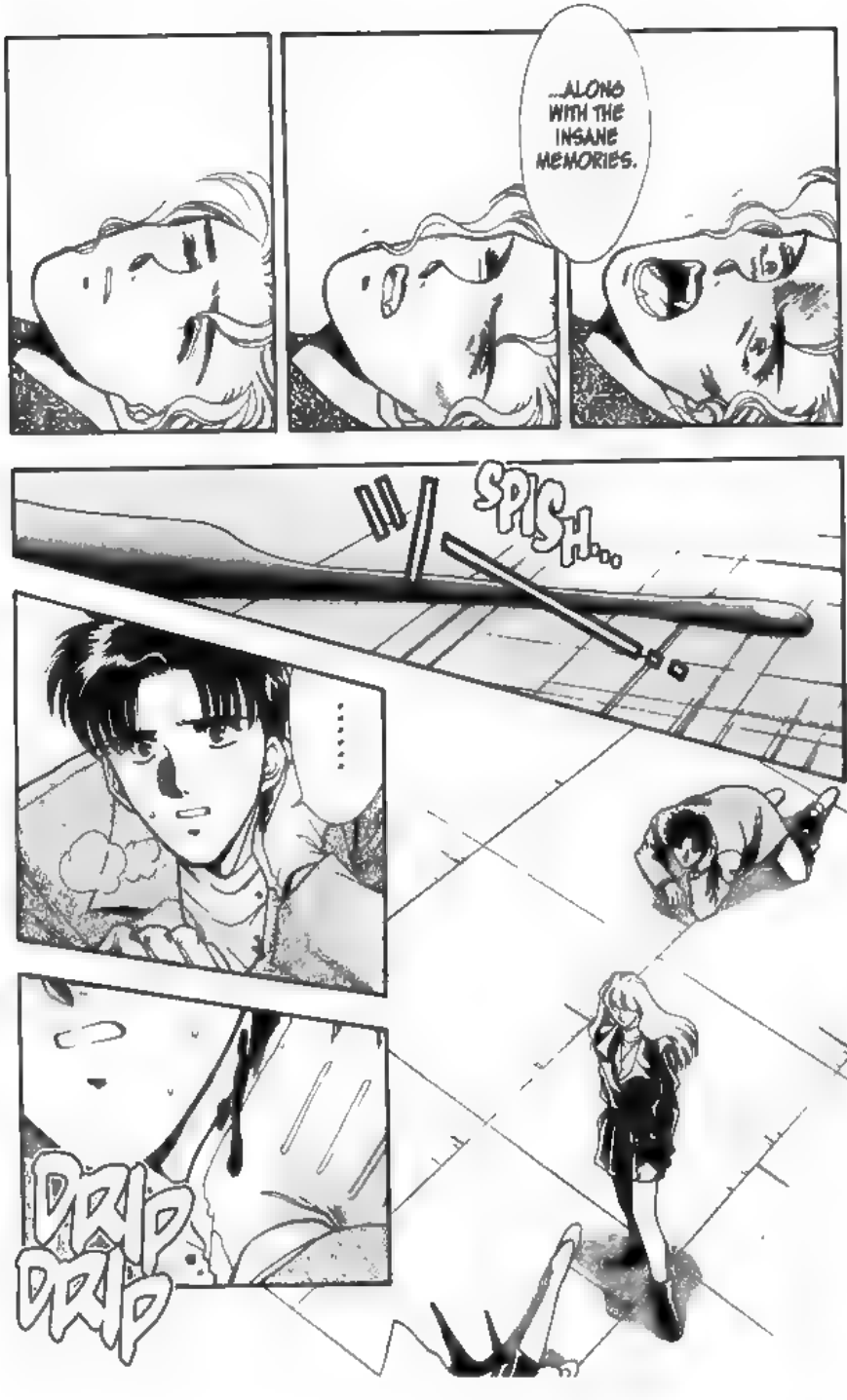
...AND THAT MEANS I CAN CHANGE YOU BACK.

ONE GOOD THING...
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ENOUGH TO BE AFRAID OF SUNLIGHT...
CANON!
...NIMURO!

WHA...
I CAN GET RID OF THE FILTHY BLOOD THAT'S POLLUTED YOUR BODY...

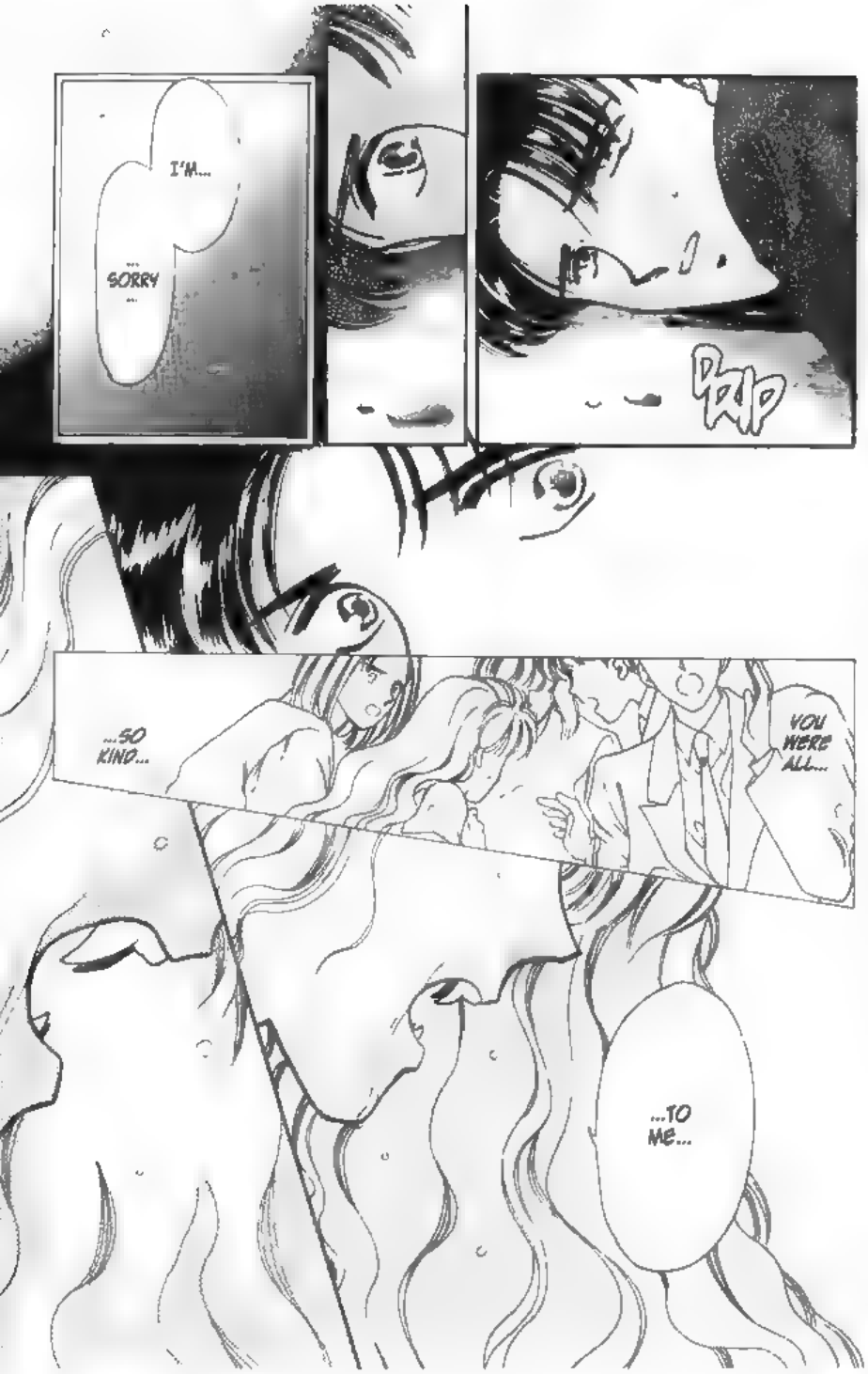
KRRRK

CANON...
!NIMURO?
CA... NO...
.....
SL UMP
.....


...ALONG WITH THE INSANE MEMORIES.
SPISH...
.....
DRIP DRIP

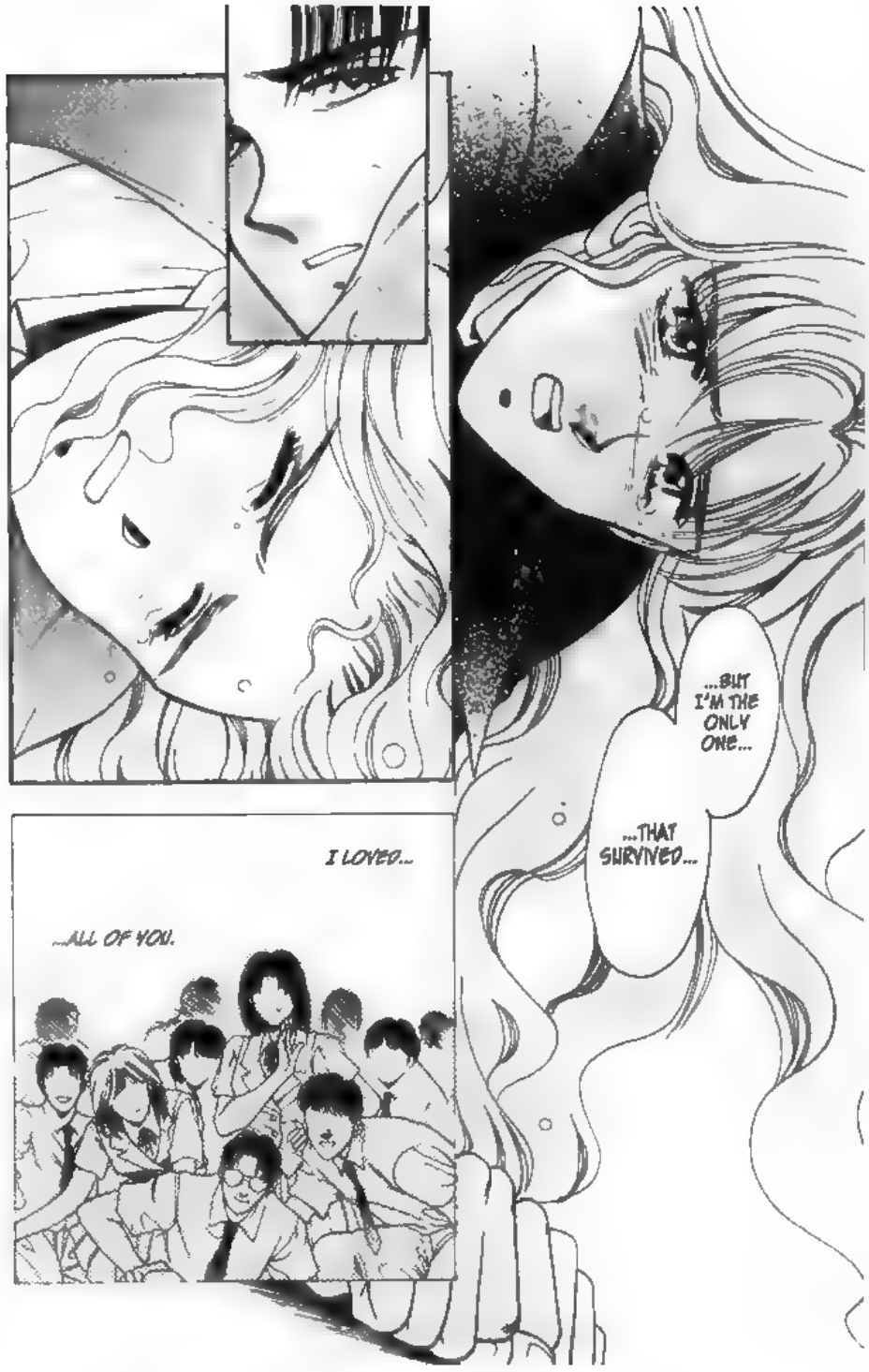
WERE THEY ALL...
...MURDERED?
DAMN...
...IT...
WERE THEY...
AKI... KO...
GOD... DAMN...
...IT...
...MURDERED?

W...
WAIT...
CLANG
PLEASE...
YOU WERE ONLY BITTEN...
...SO YOU DON'T WORRY ABOUT BECOMING A VAMPIRE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
...HOW AKIKO... HOW MY LITTLE SISTER DIED?
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU...?
...KILLED BY...
...SOMEONE...
...LIKE HER?
...WAS SHE...
TELL ME!
WAS SHE...


I'M...
...SORRY...
DRIP
...SO KIND...
YOU WERE ALL...
...TO ME...

THEY'VE ALL BEEN...
...KILLED...
AKI...
...WAS RAISE A HAND.
ALL HE DID...

I'M SO...
...S-SORRY...
FLAP...
BETTER TAKE IT EASY BEFORE SOMEBODY DIES OF OVER-WORK...
FORGET ABOUT IT! WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A FUNERAL AROUND HERE!
..I CAN BARELY REMEMBER WHAT I DID THIS PAST WEEK. IT'S ALL A BLUR!
WE'VE BEEN SO BUSY...
TELL ME ABOUT IT. FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T RECALL WHAT I DID YESTERDAY
BUZZ BUZZ
WHAT?! YOU DIDN'T GET ANY PIGS?!
HELLO, NICHI TRIB!
AH! IT'S PITCH BLACK OUTSIDE!
IS IT ALREADY THAT TIME?


...BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE...
...THAT SURVIVED...
I LOVED...
...ALL OF YOU.

...HAS GOT NO CHANCE OF BEATING ITS MASTER.
THE SERVANT OF A VAMPIRE...
HMPH
I'M TELLIN' YOU RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE TILTIN' AT WIND-MILLS.
.....
WELL, WHATEVER HAPPENS...
...I'LL NEVER FORGET.

KA!
I UNDERSTAND HEALING THEIR INJURIES, BUT OIDJA HAVE TO WIPE THEIR MEMORIES WHILE YOU WERE AT IT?
I DIDN'T SEE HOW I HAD A CHOICE.
WHO GAVE YOU THE RIGHT TO MESS WITH THEIR HEADS LIKE THAT?
LIKE HATRED...
...OR REVENGE...
SOME THINGS HAVE TO BE FORGOTTEN IN ORDER TO GO ON LIVING.

...AND WHAT SHE'S DOING...
...NOW.
NIGHTMARE THE END

FOR SOME REASON...
...I'M THINKING ABOUT HER MORE THAN EVER TODAY.
NEVER...
HER BODY IS REALLY FRAGILE...
...SO SHE'S ALWAYS IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL...
...BUT SHE'S THE NICEST GIRL YOU'LL EVER MEET.
EVERYBODY LOVES HER.
I WONDER...
...WHERE SHE IS...

CANON

CHIKA SHIOMI

SOMEBODY CALL AN AMBULANCE!!
AND THE POLICE...! THIS WAS A HIT-AND-RUN!!
KENNY!
KENNY!!
NOT GONNA TELL ANYBODY... BACK HOME...
MOM... MY LITTLE BROTHER... THEY'D JUST WORRY...
DUDE, WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?!
I PRAY EVERY DAY FOR YOU...
YOUR RIGHT ARM IS...!!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE THINKIN' 'BOUT YOUR FAMILY...!
...PRAY FOR YOU TO BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE, EVEN IF IT'S IN JAPAN.
KENNY...
THAT GOLDEN ARM OF YOURS...!!

CANON

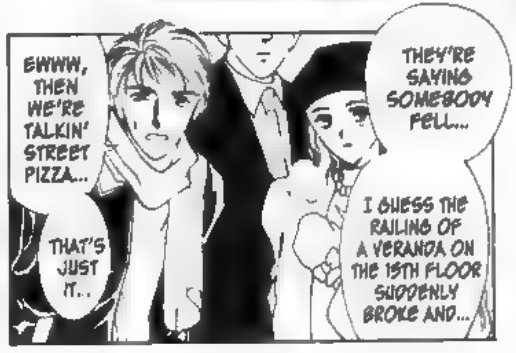
CHIKA SHIOMI

FLAD
SOMEONE FALLS 15 FLOORS, ABOUT TO LAND ON YOUR HEAD, MOST PEOPLE THINK TO GET OUTTA THE WAY...
BUT NOOO, NOT YOU! YOU GOTTA CATCH 'IM!
OY OY OY...
DAMN, BUT YOU'RE A STUPID VAMPIRE!
FIRST TIME I EVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT...
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY? I'M SORRY!

AND I HOPE YOU CAN ALWAYS BE...
...THE "YOU"...
...YOU WANT TO BE.

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT?
THERE WAS NO SPLATTER! THE PERSON WASN'T HURT AT ALL! THAT'S THE REASON FOR THE CROWD.


EWWW, THEN WE'RE TALKIN' STREET PIZZA...
THAT'S JUST IT...
THEY'RE SAYING SOMEBODY FELL...
I GUESS THE RAILING OF A VERANDA ON THE 15TH FLOOR SUDDENLY BROKE AND...

...I'M...
...HUMAN.
AFTER ALL, EVEN AFTER...
...I MET HIM...
<EXCUSE ME...>*
*< > DENOTES SPEAKING IN ENGLISH
YOU'RE A BIRD, FU!...
...SO MAYBE THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...
...BUT I'M HUMAN...
...AND THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS DRINK ANOTHER HUMAN'S BLOOD.
EVEN IF MY BODY HEALS WHAT SHOULD BE MORTAL WOUNDS IN MINUTES...
EVEN IF I CAN'T LET THE SUN'S RAYS HIT ME...

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES WHEN BEING A VAMPIRE REALLY COMES IN HANDY.
SEE? IT LOOKS LIKE MY RIB CAGE POPPED BACK INTO PLACE, TOO!
WHADDA YOU WANT, A MEDAL?
LOOK, I'VE STOPPED BLEEDING ALREADY!
BUT WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
MY BODY HEALS UP FAST ENOUGH.
BELIEVE ME, HUMAN BLOOD IS DELICIOUS!
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE EATEN, NOT SAVED!
I GOTTA SAY, CANON, AS A VAMPIRE, YOU GOT A SCREW LOOSE!
FOR VAMPS, HUMANS ARE JUST A STEP DOWN ON THE FOOD CHAIN!
WELL, YOU'VE GOT A SCREW LOOSE, TOO! WHO EVER HEARD OF A VAMPIRE CROW?!
AH! DON'T BE A SCROOGE! LEMME DRINK THAT!
SHOULDN'T LET THIS GO TO WASTE! GOT IT ALL OVER THE STREET!
LAP LAP
AND VAMPIRE BLOOD IS EVEN BETTER! A DELICACY!

WHAT ARE YOU BEING ALL SQUEAMISH FOR, CANON? IT ISN'T HIM!
<OH, SORRY! SORRY!> DID I SCARE YOU?
WHISPER
THIS GUY DOESN'T HAVE THE FAINTEST WHIFF...
...OF VAMPIRE BLOOD ON HIM!
I-I'M SORRY! I HAVE TO GO!
EH...? WAIT A SECOND!
SWISH
UM, DO YOU...
TA TA TA
BUT...
KRAAH
<OH!>
MISS...
SLIP

HAVEN'T WE...?
?
KRASH

WHAT IS THIS...?
BLOOD...?
.....
TOTALLY TANKS MY GOOD LOO...
I'M COVERED IN MUDDY WATER! BEAUTIFUL!
<OH, NO! YUCK>
DRIP

I HEARD THE GUY THAT TURNED YOU INTO A VAMPIRE...
...WAS ALSO A FOREIGNER, BUT...
YOUR FRIENDS WERE SLAUGHTERED, WHATEVER, I GET IT...
...BUT IF HE GOT TO YOU SO BAD YOU'RE SPOOKED WHENEVER YOU SEE ANY FOREIGNER, WELL...
YEAH...
OKAY, I'M GONNA TELL YOU AGAIN. GIVE UP THIS REVENGE BUSINESS.

...INTO A VAMPIRE?
WHY DID HE ONLY TURN ME...
BUT WHY?
...LIKE HIM.
.....
ENOUGH ALREADY!
FLAP

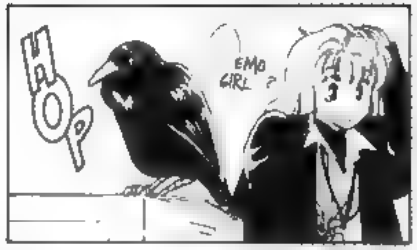
DIG! UNLIKE YOU, I GOT A BEAK MORE POWERFUL THAN A BLOOD-HOUND'S!
I GET A GOOD BREEZE BLOWIN' IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND FINDIN' THE ONE YOU'RE AFTER'LL BE A BREEZE!

RUFFLE
WOULDJA QUIT WITH THE RUEFUL INTRO-SPECTION?! YOU'RE DEPRESSIN' ME!
KEEP IT UP AND YOUR BRAIN'S GONNA EXPLODE FROM AN ANGST EMBO-LISM!
RUFFLE

I WASN'T SPOOKED!
I WAS JUST... ...A LITTLE SURPRISED. THAT'S ALL.
SIX MONTHS AGO, 39 OF MY FRIENDS WERE KILLED IN AN INSTANT.
...SO I CAN'T BE SCARED. FOR THEM.
MY FRIENDS... THEY WERE KILLED BEFORE THEY EVEN HAD THE CHANCE TO REGISTER FEAR.
FOR SOME REASON, ONLY I BECAME...
GOOO
ONLY I'M STILL ALIVE... LIKE THIS...

SNIF
SNIF
WELL, FUI?
BOUNCE

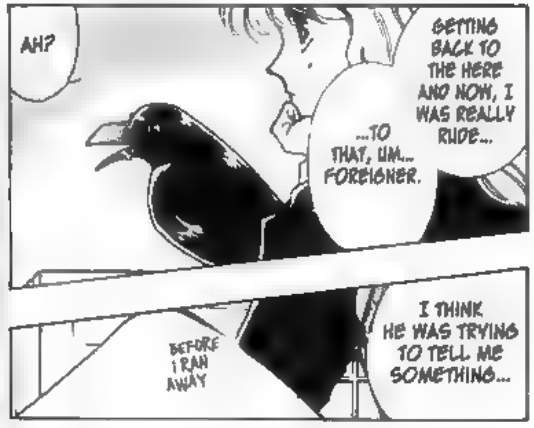
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO...
...BUT I KNOW YOU CAN ONLY GIVE ME A LOCATION AFTER SOMEBODY GETS EATEN FIRST...
SNAP!
FLAP
I WAS RIGHT. THERE'S A HUMAN WHO WAS CHANGED INTO A VAMP RIGHT AROUND HERE.
TRACK HIM DOWN, CHANGE HIM BACK TO HUMAN?
BUT HE'S JUST A LITTLE FISH. WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO?
OH, REALLY?
SO NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL MY SCHNOZZ IS...
LISTEN, YOU! THE BLOOD OF THIRD-CLASS VAMPS IS SO WEAK, IT HARDLY GIVES OFF ANY ODOR AT ALL!
WHAT IS THAT, SARCASM?


HOP
EMO GIRL?

GLITTER
JUST REMEMBER...

KAMA
AH, I CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT DAY TO COME
HMM... I DON'T REMEMBER MAKING THAT PROMISE...

...TO MY HEART'S CONTENT!
...YOUR PROMISE TO LET ME LAP UP YOUR BLOOD AFTERWARDS...


AH?
...TO THAT, UM... FOREIGNER.
GETTING BACK TO THE HERE AND NOW, I WAS REALLY RUDE...
BEFORE I RAN AWAY
I THINK HE WAS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING...

KYAAA!
BAK
FW
AP
BUNG
YOU'RE RIGHT.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S SELLIN' SOMETHIN'
THEY SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL!
YOU ALL RIGHT?
SORRY!
COULD YOU TOSS IT BACK?
THANK YOU!
HERE YA GO!
OKAY. YOU READY?

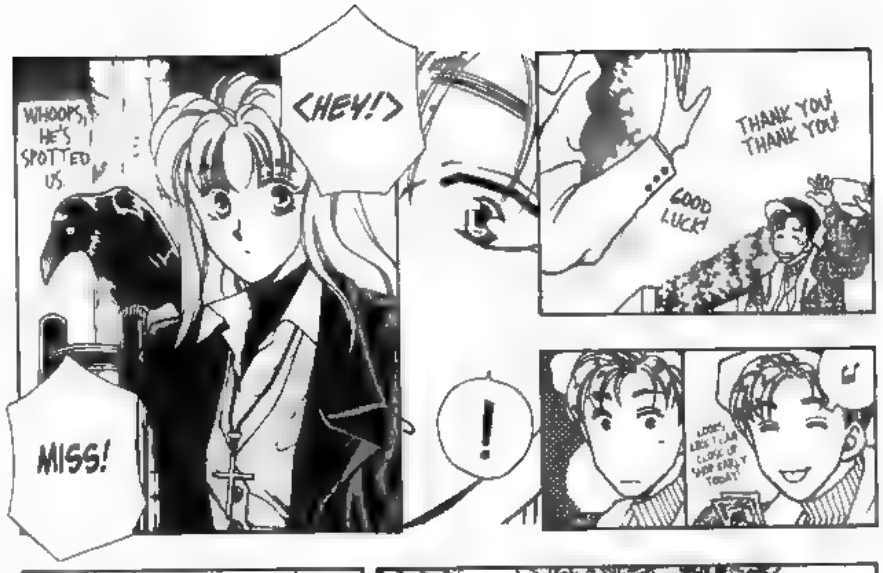
IS THAT RIGHT?
DON'T YOU COP AN ATTITUDE WITH ME, SISTER!
AS I RECALL, WE PASSED RIGHT BY A VAMPIRE THE OTHER NIGHT AND YOU DIDN'T NOTICE A THING.
AH! THAT... THAT WAS...
GET IT? THE BEAK AND THE NOSE KINDA GO TOGETHER! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA SUFFOCATE ME!
HEY! HOW COULD I'VE BEEN EXPECTED TO NOTICE ANYTHING?! AS I RECALL, YOU WERE HOLDING MY BEAK SHUT!
BH...
THERE'S THE FOREIGNER FROM A COUPLE DAYS AGO.
HUH?

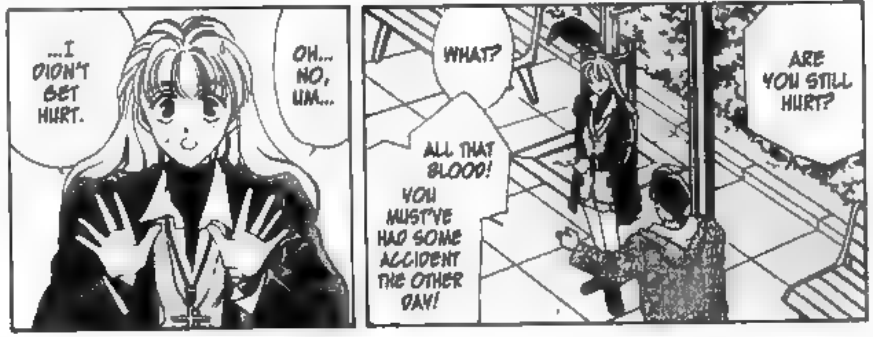
AND HERE I AM... SOMEHOW EKING OUT A LIVING.
...JUST TRYING TO SAVE UP ENOUGH MONEY TO AFFORD A BETTER HOSPITAL, ONE THAT'LL FIX ME UP.
SOB
SIGH
MY MOM HAD HIGH HOPES FOR ME BACK HOME. BREAK HER HEART IF SHE KNEW WHAT HAPPENED, SO I'VE BEEN HANGING OUT IN JAPAN EVER SINCE...
...AND ALMOST AS SOON AS I STARTED, I GOT HURT, SO THEY GAVE ME THE SACK.
<THANK YOU> JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE SO KIND!
WE'LL BUY! WE'LL BUY LOTS OF YOUR STUFF!
LAYING IT ON A LITTLE THICK, ISN'T HE?
HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT ONE THING ANYWAY...
HIS RIGHT ARM REALLY DOESN'T WORK.

BUMP
AH!
SWOOSH
TRUE STORY. NOT THAT I WAS FAMOUS OR ANYTHING...
YEP. I USED TO PLAY FOR JAPAN'S OFFICIAL BASKETBALL TEAM A WHILE BACK.
IT ACTUALLY WENT IN!
THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
<NOT BAD, HUH?>
WAAA

AS LONG AS YOU'RE GOOD...
...IT'S ALL GOOD.
OKAY, NEVER MIND. THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
...?

...UNLESS THAT HEAD IS EMPTY TO BEGIN WITH...
...?
? ?
YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER HIM?
I'D THINK A FOREIGNER WITH A GIMP ARM WOULD STICK IN THE HEAD...


WHOOPS, HE'S SPOTTED US.
<HEY!>
MISS!
!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
GOOD LUCK!
LOOKS LIKE I CAN CLOCK IN VERY EARLY TODAY!


...I DIDN'T GET HURT.
OH... NO, UM...
WHAT?
ALL THAT BLOOD! YOU MUST'VE HAD SOME ACCIDENT THE OTHER DAY!
ARE YOU STILL HURT?

AH, WELL...
FORGET THAT! I WANTED TO ASK YOU LAST TIME IF YOU REMEMBERED ME!
EH...
.....
REALLY ?
THEN WHAT COULD THAT HAVE BEEN FROM?
IT WAS LIKE A PUDDLE OF BLOOD...
DON'T ASK ME!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU AFRAID OF FOREIGNERS?
MY NAME IS KENNY AND I PROMISE YOU I'M NO A BAD GUY.
OH. WERE YOU CRYING?
...YOU CAN ALWAYS BE THE "YOU"...
...YOU WANT TO BE.
HERE'S HOPING...

MMM...
OKAY, IT'S SETTLED. YOU'RE AN AIRHEAD.
UMMM...
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A FEELING I MET HIM BEFORE TWO DAYS AGO, BUT IT'S NOT COMING BACK TO ME...

SIX MONTHS AGO...
...HE GAVE ME THIS...
I REMEMBER...
SWISH
!
WAAH WHAT?! WHAT?!
IT'S DANGEROUS...
...BEING OUT ALONE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT.

I REMEMBER YOU SAYING, FUI, THAT THE IDEA OF VAMPIRES BEING AFRAID OF CROSSES...
...IS JUST A MYTH.
...IT SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A CERTAIN EFFECT
BUT FOR ME, ANY-WAY...
LUCKILY, KENNY WAS FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY, LIKE THE ONE WHO DID THIS TO ME...
...SO MY SURPRISE WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO OVERWHELM THE INSTINCT TO KILL.
...I'VE BEEN ABLE TO HANG ON TO MY HUMAN HEART.
BECAUSE I HAVE THIS...
THE ME I WANT TO BE...
IF HIS ARM...
...WASN'T INJURED THAT BADLY, I WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIX IT FOR HIM.
...IS THE HUMAN ME.

THE "YOU" YOU WANT TO BE...
MY MOM'S STOCK PHRASE.
GO AHEAD, KEEP IT. IT'S NOT REALLY WORTH ANYTHING...
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THAT, I WONDER?
AT THE TIME, KENNY COULD MOVE BOTH ARMS FINE...
...AND THAT WHOLE PERIOD IS STILL KIND OF HAZY FOR ME...
HE MILKED THAT CATCHPHRASE FOR ALL IT WAS WORTH AND YOU FORGOT IT?
SNIF
SNIF
HMM... I'M GETTIN' SOMETHING HERE
HUH...
...AND I WAS DESPERATELY TRYING TO STAVE OFF THE DESIRE TO ATTACK THEM...
HUMANS WERE LOOKING INCREASINGLY GOOD TO EAT...
...HE TURNED ME INTO A VAMPIRE.
IT WAS RIGHT AFTER...

HE DRANK YOUR BLOOD.
AND HE DRANK IT.
RIGHT?
I'M SURE THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED TO YOU...
IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY. YOU DRINK A VAMPIRE'S BLOOD...
...YOU BECOME A VAMPIRE.

WHAT ARE YOU...
...TRYING TO TELL ME?
BEFORE, HIS ARM WAS DEAD AS AN OLD TREE STUMP, NO LIFE FORCE FLOWING THROUGH IT AT ALL...
...AND DESPITE WHAT HE BELIEVES, NO AMOUNT OF SURGERY WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO BRING IT BACK.
FUI!
I'M SURE HE CAN MOVE IT BY NOW.
NO WORRIES THERE.
.....
WHAT?
?
AFTER YOU RAN AWAY FROM HIM A FEW DAYS AGO, HE FELL ON HIS ASS...
...RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR PUDDLE OF BLOOD.

...EVEN THOUGH...
DAMN...
CAN'T KEEP ANYTHING DOWN...
...I'M STARVIN'...
HUFF
GYAAA!

KA
NOW HE'S YOUR SERVANT.
KAKAKA
SO IF I WERE YOU, I'D COMMAND HIM TO PUT AWAY THE BASKETBALL AND JOIN YOU.
KOFF KOFF
HUFF...
UHHH...

BAM
ACK!
ULP!!
CRAZY BITCH!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, KILL ME?!
OKAY, OKAY! IT'S A DEAL!
I TAKE YOU TO HIM AND YOU DON'T BREAK MY NECK!
.....
WHERE'S KENNY?

WHY YOU GOIN' POSTAL ON MY ASS?!
ALL I DID WAS SUGGEST A PLAN OF ACTION...A DAMN GOOD ONE! I'D THINK YOU'D BE GRATEFUL!
WAIT! FUI!!
EEP!
EEP!
YOU NEED EVERY PARTNER YOU CAN GET...!!
'CAUSE I'M TELLIN' YOU, YOU GOT NO CHANCE OF TAKIN' HIM DOWN ALONE!
YIPE!

I CAN MOVE IT...
SO WHY DON'T I FEEL...
...THE LEAST BIT HAPPY?
SCUFF
RUSTLE
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
...I GOTTA DO SOMETHING... TO STOP THIS HUNGER...

YOU MEAN SOMEONE'S WITH HIM?
MMM... AND IT MAY EVEN BE THE MASS MURDERING VAMP YOU'RE AFTER...
SQUEUNG
TWITCH
WHERE IS HE?!
KA
BUT I GOTTA TELL YOU, IT'D BE MORE FUN MY WAY!
DON'T RUSH ME, DON'T RUSH ME. I'VE GOT TWO OVERLAPPING SCENTS AND I'M NOT SURE WHICH ONE'S KENNY-BOY.
—coo—

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE DITCH HIM?
YEAH, YEAH
A BIRD... A PLANE...
SUPERMAN! HEH-HEH-HEH!
WHAT THE HELL'S THAT?
I NEVER SAID HE WAS BEING ATTACKED! JUST THAT THERE'RE TWO OF 'EM IN THE SAME GENERAL SPOT...
WHAT'S THE HURRY?!
TRUE, TRUE...
AND YOU NEVER SAID HE WASN'T! BUT YOU DID TELL ME THAT THE TASTIEST THING TO A VAMPIRE IS ANOTHER VAMPIRE'S BLOOD!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF MY BLOOD...
AND THAT'S A POSSIBILITY, WHICH IS WHY WE'RE HURRYING!!
I MEAN, MAYBE IF HE WAS SUCKED TOTALLY DRY, IT'D BE LIGHTS OUT, BUT...
BUT ALSO REMEMBER THAT NOW HE'S A VAMPIRE, SO HE'S NO SITTING DUCK HIMSELF!

...GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT, BROTHER!
YOU LOOK...
HEH-HEH-HEH...
'M FINE, 'M FINE. 'M NOT DRUNK!
YOU HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK, MATSUOA.

KENN!!
JUST A GUY...
...WITH A HEALTHY APPETITE!
SWISH
SWISH

AREN'T WE THERE YET?!
JEEZ, GET HYSTERICAL ON ME, WHY DON'CHA?! THEY'RE RIGHT OVER THERE!!
HE HELPED ME...AND THIS IS HOW I RETURN THE FAVOR...?
RUSTLE
WHAT ARE YOU...?!
KRR
KRR

WHU

MP

CHOMP
EEEK! I LIKE DRINKIN' BLOOD...
...NOT GETTIN' MINE DRUNK!!
AEEE!
BIRDBRAIN...

VAMPIRE BLOOD! OH YEAH, THIS IS THE GOOD STUFF!
AAAAA!
GOOD TIMING!
WAHOO!
I DIDN'T GET ALL THE VAMPIRE BLOOD OUT OF HIS BODY YET...!
NO, FUJI, NOT YET! THIS ONE'S ALMOST FINISHED THE TRANSFORMATION!
WHAAAT?!
GAAA!

SNAP
SLUMP
AWK!
HUFF
HUFF
GYAAA!
GYAAA!
IT'S...
...IT'S YOU...

GRAB
UHHH!
UHHH!
BASH
YOU'RE GONNA GIVE ME BACK... MY BLOOD, TOO!
SLASH

I'M NOT THAT DENSE.
NO EXPLANATION NEEDED.
KENNY, I...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN THIS TO YOU, BUT...
ANYWAY, IT SEEMS LIKE...
...YOU REMEMBERED ME AFTER ALL.
...BUT...
...WHEN I SAW THE FANGS...
...SO...
...YOU WERE CRYING...
I KNOW I'LL NEVER FORGET OUR FIRST MEETING.
I GOTTA ADMIT, I WAS SHOCKED...

BEFORE, IT DIDN'T MOVE AT ALL...BUT NOW...
FLEX...
KENNY...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR RIGHT ARM...?
PLEASE, ANSWER ME.
MY RIGHT ARM...?
A HALF-ASSED TRANSFORMATION LIKE THAT, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CHANGE HIM BACK TO HUMAN IN NO TIME!
TCH
LOOKS LIKE HE BARELY DRANK ENOUGH TO GET BASIC MOTOR CONTROL OF THE ARM...
HE DIDN'T LAP UP AS MUCH OF YOUR BLOOD AS I THOUGHT
KA!
HUH?
A TALKING CROW!
PHEW!

...YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT WHERE IT'S GATHERED, IN THE ARM THAT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO MOVE.
IF YOU'RE INTENT ON DRAWING OUT ALL THE VAMPIRE BLOOD IN HIS BODY...
...VAMPIRE BLOOD IS POTENT STUFF.
EVEN IF HE ONLY DRANK A LITTLE...
WAIT MUCH LONGER AND IT'LL BRANCH OUT FROM HIS ARM TO THE REST OF HIS BODY.

YES, WE'VE GOT VAMPIRE LEGENDS IN MY COUNTRY, TOO.
HE KNOWS...
...WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT, I GAVE YOU A CROSS.
...BEFORE I BECOME...
PLEASE... HELP ME...
...HELP ME...
DO IT STARTING WITH HIS RIGHT ARM, CANON.
...LIKE HIM

FLAP
FLAP
IT'S ALMOST DAWN!
GET A MOVE ON, CANON!
KENNY-SAN!
THANK YOU...

AH, JUST DO IT IF YOU'RE GONNA DO IT!
I'VE JUST DETECTED THE SCENT OF ANOTHER VAMP...
...SO MAKE IT QUICK! IF THE WIND CHANGES, I'M GONNA LOSE 'IM!
FUI...
THANK YOU, FUI...
!MPH!

CRUZ: THE END

SAKAKI

CANON

CHIKA SHIOMI

WHY DO YOU BOTHER ME DURING MY MEAL...
...COMRADE?
HEY!
I'M NOT...
DON'T DO IT, CANON! YOU'RE WAY OUTTA YOUR LEAGUE HERE!

SLIP

...I THINK YOU'RE OPERATING UNDER A FALSE ASSUMP-TION...
HMM...
TAP
NO...

...YOUR COMRADE!
CANON!
NO...!
SLASH
I FOUND YOU AT LAST...!
SWOOP
!

I DIDN'T SAY JACK ABOUT...
...HIM BEING THE MAN OF YOUR NIGHT-MARES!
.....
ALL I SAID WAS I CAUGHT THE SCENT OF WHAT'S PROBABLY A POWERFUL VAMP!
IDIOT!
TAP
TAP
!
EH...?

...YOU'RE NOT HIM...
...YOU'RE ANOTHER...
...VAMPIRE.

...THE VAMPIRE...
...WITH SILVER HAIR AND BLUE EYES.

PFFT
HE LET YOU GET AWAY!
HE RAN AWAY...?
"FOOLS RUSH IN..." I SWEAR IT'S TRUE...
PHEW
YOU'RE LUCKY HE HAPPENED TO BE A VAMPIRE WITH A CERTAIN LEVEL OF TOLERANCE...
IT WASN'T HIM...
AH, HE'S STILL ALIVE

GULP
I WANT TO MEET HIM ONE MORE TIME, SO LOOK FOR HIM.
CANON, LISTEN...
...THERE'S NO POINT IN THROWING YOUR LIFE AWAY!
COMMON SENSE DICTATES YOU AVOID DANGER, NOT EMBRACE IT!
IN OTHER WORDS YOU'RE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ANOTHER RUN-IN WITH HIM?
HELL NO! BECAUSE NEXT TIME ... FOR SURE, YOU...AND MAYBE ME ...WILL BE KILLED!
LOOK, I'M NOT FEEDING YOU A LINE HERE.
THAT IS ONE EFFIN' STRONG VAMPIRE!
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DON'T GET IT!
IF YOU COULD SMELL WHAT I SMELL...

MUST BE THE GUY FROM LAST NIGHT AND ALL OF HIS SERVANTS ... BUT THE SHEER NUMBER OF THEM ...!!
QUIVER
QUIVER
...THIS WHOLE TOWN...
...IS INFESTED WITH VAMPIRES!
MMM?
SMELLS LIKE...
FUI...
TRY TO FORGET ABOUT IT.
FLAP
FLAP
...I'M SURE SHE'LL WANNA MEET HIM AGAIN.
IF I TELL THE GIRL...
...DO YOU KNOW WHERE THAT VAMPIRE FROM LAST NIGHT IS?

HE'S NO SERVANT!
HE'S NOT LIKE YOU! HE WASN'T A HUMAN WHO GOT TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE BY DRINKING VAMPIRE BLOOD!
I DON'T INTEND ON FIGHTING HIM.
I JUST WANT TO TALK.
I THINK HE'S THE REAL DEAL! A NATURALLY-BORN VAMPIRE!
KILLING YOU WOULD BE ABOUT AS MUCH EFFORT FOR HIM AS SNAPPING HIS FINGERS.
ARE YOU GOING TO BREAK YOUR PROMISE?
OH, YEAH, I'M SURE HE'S A GREAT CONVERSATIONALIST...!
FU!

...BUT I STILL GET THE FEELING IT'S A BAD DEAL ALL AROUND!
I KNOW I'M ONLY LEADIN' YOU TO HIM...
...AND IN RETURN I GET TO DRINK A LITTLE OF YOUR BLOOD WHEN IT'S OVER...
SHUDDER
I MEAN, HE DIDN'T ATTACK ME LAST NIGHT...
...AND HE DIDN'T DRINK MUCH OF THAT WOMAN'S BLOOD.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO SCARED.
HE MIGHT VERY WELL BE OPEN TO JUST TALKING, LIKE TWO HUMAN BEINGS.
ALTHOUGH COME TO THINK OF IT...

GRIN
WHY'S HE APPROACHING YOU FROM BEHIND...?

HUH?
DON'T GIVE ME "HUH!"
WHERE'S THE MAN FROM LAST NIGHT?!
USELESS BIRD...!
SWISH

GASP
YOU DRANK THAT WOMAN'S BLOOD, DIDN'T YOU?!
WHEN?! WHEN MY BACK WAS TURNED?!
DAMN!

...OUR FRIEND KNOWS QUALITY WHEN HE DRINKS IT.
SO THAT'S ONE TOPIC YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GO INTO WITH HIM.

FLINCH
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT TO SOMEONE WHO'D ALREADY BEEN ATTACKED!
SUUUUFF
IT WAS JUST A TASTE TEST! A SAMPLE, NO MORE!
EH?
IS HE HERE ...?

WAAA!
HERE HE IS!
WHAT?
DON'T YOU HAVE EVEN A MODICUM OF MANNERS? "THANK YOU" WOULD BE APPROPRIATE RIGHT NOW

...TO BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN THE REST OF THEM.
YOU... YOU'RE A SERVANT, TOO...BUT YOU SEEM
EH?
WELL, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?
ABOUT THIS PATHETIC GHOUL.
...HE'S GOT HER IN CHECK WITH JUST ONE HAND?!
I KNOW THE BROAD'S JUST A SERVANT, BUT STILL....
CHIP
UN-FRIGGIN'-BELIEVABLE!

DON'T KILL HER!
N-NO, DON'T! SHE CAN STILL BE CHANGED BACK TO HUMAN!
PERHAPS I SHOULD JUST SNAP HER NECK?

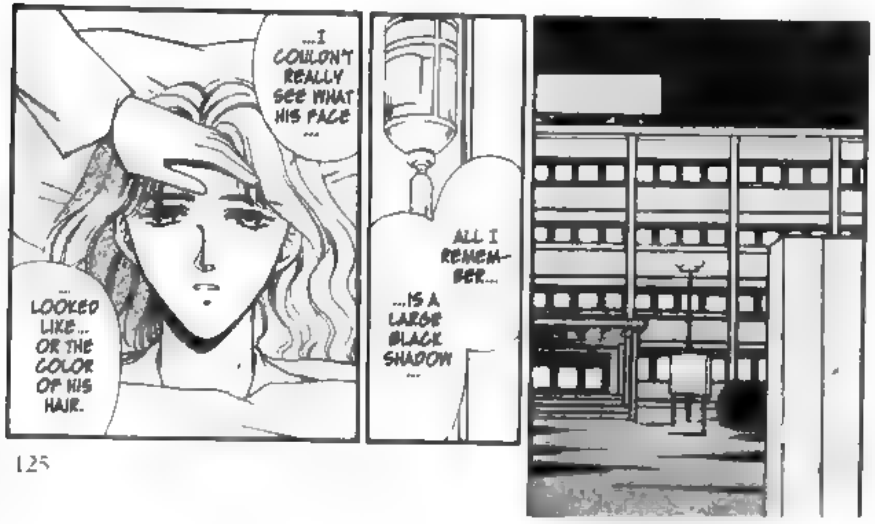
SHE'S HIS SERVANT!
HE OBVIOUSLY [illegible] THIS TRAMP VAMP!
TH-THANK...
DON'T BE A DUMB-ASS!
UNH'H... OHH...
I DESPISE THESE "HOME-MADE" VAMPIRES... THESE SO-CALLED SERVANTS!
OH, PLEASE
MINE ...?

NOW WHY WOULD I BE PARTY TO MAKING THAT?
THEY HAVE NOTHING IN THEIR MINDS SAVE AN INSATIABLE LUST FOR FOOD.

!
...BUT I THINK YOU'D BETTER LEAVE THIS DESOLATE AREA AT ONCE.
FOR IF YOU DON'T...
...PERHAPS EVEN BY A NORMAL HUMAN...
...YOU'RE LIKELY TO GET EATEN...
...THIS...
...LIKE...

!
JUMP
RATTLE
SHE'S STILL ALIVE...
WHEW
NOT THAT I MIND THE COM-PASSION ...

HOW CAN ONE HUMAN EAT ANOTHER HUMAN?
I DON'T GET WHAT HE SAID. YOU COULD GET EATEN BY ANOTHER HUMAN?
WH
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM ?!
WHACK
DON'T PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW!!


...I COULDN'T REALLY SEE WHAT HIS FACE ... LOOKED LIKE... OR THE COLOR OF HIS HAIR.
ALL I REMEMBER... ...IS A LARGE BLACK SHADOW ...

SW ISH
W- WHAT ARE YOU...?!
...AND WHO KNOWS? I MAY EVEN COME TO YOUR RESCUE AGAIN.
I'M SAKAKI. CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE IN TROUBLE...
HA HA HA HA!
GO AWAY
STUPID!! I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!

I KNOW YOU WANTED TO ASK SAKAKI ABOUT THE VAMP YOU **REALLY** HATE...

THANK YOU.
PLEASE... FORGET YOUR WHOLE ORDEAL.
WHAT?!
FLAP
FLAP
CANON? HELLO?
COME ON, YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY THINK WE'D BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO GET ANY USE-FUL INFO FROM HER, OIOJA?

SO HE CAN'T DETECT AN ATTACK IF IT'S COMING FROM DOWNWIND, EH?
USELESS CROW... I'D HAVE HIM STUFFED.

...'CAUSE THIS TOWN IS CRAWLIN' WITH 'EM.
THERE'S ONLY ONE VAMPIRE AROUND THESE PARTS THAT'S CAPABLE OF MAKIN' SERVANTS.
...AND THAT'S SAKAKI.

SWISH
SWISH

AND THEN, PERHAPS, WE CAN DISCUSS...
AH, WELL. I WANTED TO SEE WHAT YOU WERE CAPABLE OF ANYWAY.

...OF SERVICE TO ME.
...HOW BOTH OF YOU MAY BE...

I'M NOT GOING TO CRIPPLE ANY OF THEM! THEY'RE STILL HUMAN!
WHAM
HITCH
CANON, YOU IDIOT! STAY FOCUSED!
WHAT'S THAT SAKAKI...
...DOING THIS FOR?

AWK! NOBODY'S EATING CROW TONIGHT!
FWISH FWISH FWISH
...THIS AREA WAS A HOTBED OF SERVANTS, FUI?!
WELL, Y'SEE, WHEN THE WIND DOESN'T BLOW MY WAY, I CAN'T, UH...
THUMP
THUD
AND YOU HAD NO IDEA...

LEAP
UEYAA!
LEMME SHOW YOU HOW LOW YOU ARE ON THE PECKING ORDER!

WATCH YOURSELF AND QUIT PLAYIN' DOCTOR WHILE WE'RE SURROUNDED BY THESE THINGS!
YOU CAN TAKE OUT THE POISON LATER! RIGHT NOW, MAKE IT SO THEY CAN'T MOVE!
SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH
DON'T HURT THEM BADLY, FUI!
I'M TREATIN' 'EM WITH KID GLOVES, CAN'T YOU TELL?!
DUMMY!

WHA—
WHUD
WHAT HAP-PENED ...?
I DIDN'T...
NO.
HE DIED...

KKRA

I DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU.
AREN'T THESE YOUR SERVANTS ...?
SAKAKI!!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME THE FIRST TIME? I DON'T MAKE THESE ABOMI-NATIONS.
WHY?
ARE YOU UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT I SICCED THEM ON YOU?

I DIDN'T KILL THEM.
DON'T WORRY.

...WHO WOULD BE YOUR ENEMY?
...THAT THERE ARE OTHERS...

THOSE WHO DON'T APPRECIATE YOUR TURNING THEIR SERVANTS BACK INTO HUMANS...
...CANON HIMURO.
WHY, THE VERY SAME THING YOU ARE.
...HOW DID YOU KNOW MY...
HOW...
WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?!

YOU CAN SAY ALL YOU WANT!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO BELIEVE YOU!
SHUDO
TAK

EVEN THOUGH THE TRUTH IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU. I SAVED YOU.
AH, YOU'RE A SKEPTIC.

SURELY, YOU CAN IMAGINE ...

RANDOMLY CREATING SERVANTS...
...AND JUST NOW, MAKING THEM ATTACK YOU...
...THAT'S HIS HANDI-WORK.
...HE KILLED...
SILVER HAIR
...EVERYONE.
BLUE EYES

I, TOO...
...AM SEARCHING FOR THE VAMPIRE WITH SILVER HAIR AND BLUE EYES...
...THE VAMPIRE...
...KNOWN AS "ROO."

SLAP
HIS NAME IS ROD ...?

AND SO, IN THE INTERESTS OF TAKING HIM DOWN ...
A VAM-PIRE ...
...I OFFER YOU MY SUPPORT.
I HAVE... A BONE TO PICK WITH HIM, TOO.
NOT A BAD DEAL, EH?
ROD ...?

I FINALLY HAVE...
...HIS NAME.
I DON'T CARE HOW STRONG HE IS, I JUST CAN'T TRUST...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!
NO, I DON'T! HE HAS "SUSPICIOUS" WRITTEN ALL OVER HIS FACE!
ADMIT IT. YOU HAVE REGRETS...
...ABOUT SAKAKI.
I MEAN YOUR FEELINGS! YOU GET DIZZY AROUND HIM, RIGHT?
IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND, YOU'RE GOIN', "ACTUALLY, HE'S KIND OF HOT, FOR A MONSTER!"

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE AGAINST HIM...
...BUT THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY DOESN'T AUTO-MATICALLY GET MY TRUST!
THANKS FOR YOUR OFFER... BUT NO THANKS!
I DON'T NEED ANY HELP.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU..
...CANON.
I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG, LONG TIME...
SAKAKI THE END

FUJI! GET BACK HERE!
OH, YOU'RE FULL OF IT!
YEAH? THEN WHY'RE YOU BLUSHING?
YOU MAY NOT NEED ME...
...BUT I MOST CERTAINLY NEED YOU.

CANON

FUJ!?
FUJ!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
PROBABLY HANGING OUT WITH THAT GUY AGAIN!
WHAT'S THAT BIRDBRAIN UP TO?!
I SAY THE VAMPIRE'S SUSPICIOUS, HE CAN'T BE TRUSTED...
...AND THE FIRST THING FUJI DOES IS BUDDY UP WITH HIM!!
SNIFF
SNIFF

CANON

CHIKA SHIOMI

GRAB
GASP!!!
...OF A VAMPIRE GIRL WHO'S NEVER EVEN TASTED BLOOD!
OH, LIKE I'M REALLY SCARED...
NOT ONE...
KAA
KAA
WAA... WAA...
GET BACK HERE!
...AS LONG AS THEY SHARE AN INTEREST IN BLOOD, IS THAT IT?
I GUESS WHETHER SOMEONE IS OUR ENEMY OR OUR ALLY DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOU...
KYAA!!
GRAB
SWISH
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM HIM...?!
SWIPE

I SMELL...
...WHAT'S GOTTA BE LIKE THE CHAMPAGNE OF BLOOD!
AND GETTING CLOSER! FEE-FI-FO-FUM! I SMELL THE BLOOD OF A HEALTHY YOUNG WOMAN!
CLOSER?
THAT GOOD, IS IT?
FLIP
I SAY THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA...
...BUT I FEAR IT WOULD RESULT IN YOU GETTING THRASHED AGAIN BY YOUR MISTRESS.
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE HAVE A SIP...
...SAKAKI?!

GARE
LET GO, I SAID!
HMM... I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.
SAKAKI, QUIT IT!
PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AT US!
IN THAT CASE, SHALL WE GO SOMEWHERE MORE PRIVATE?
THAT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY!!
COUPLES THESE DAYS SHAMELESS!
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN SHAKE OFF MY ARM...
...THERE'S NO WAY YOU STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ROD... NOT ALONE, ANYWAY.
ON THE OTHER HAND, MY OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IS STILL ON THE TABLE.
THIS ISN'T MEANT TO BE FUNNY. IT'S MEANT TO CHANGE YOUR MIND.

SA-
SAKAKI!
...YOU CERTAINLY COME TO SEE ME A LOT.
FOR SOMEONE WHO'S FILLED WITH SUCH CONTEMPT FOR ME...
I-I DIDN'T COME TO SEE YOU!
NOW LET ME GO!!
FUU! THIS CONVERSATION ISN'T OVER...!
FLAP FLAP FLAP
FLAP FLAP

SA-
SAKAKI...?!
WHAT ARE YOU...
LETTING YOU GO AT THE MOMENT...
THAT'S ENOUGH!
...A MORON?!
...WOULD BE A SQUANDERED OPPORTUNITY.
DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE MUCH.
EH?!?
YOU SEE, I WAS ABOUT TO FEED WHEN YOU INTERRUPTED ME...
EH?
...AND NOW I'M FAMISHED.
NO...
NOOO...
WAIT...
SAKAKI...!
WAIT A SECOND...!

I COULD PROTECT YOU...
...AMONG OTHER THINGS.
SO KINDLY UNHAND ME!
DIDN'T I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR BEFORE?!
THE LAST PERSON I'M GOING TO PUT MY TRUST IN IS ANOTHER VAMPIRE LIKE YOU!

FLAP
FLAP
SWISH

LET ME GO!!
WHAP
...THAT ABOUT?!
WH-WH-WHAT WAS...
FLAP
YOU HAD THE POWER TO BREAK AWAY FROM ME AFTER ALL. WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE...
PUSH COMES TO SHOVE?! I WAS DESPERATE! YOU WERE ABOUT TO BITE MY NECK!

...SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO LIVE.
SERVANTS AND THE VAMPIRES WHO CREATE THEM...
...HE GOES AND ATTACKS HUMANS!
WHENEVER I TAKE MY EYES OFF HIM FOR ONE SECOND...
JUST LIKE SOMEBODY ELSE I KNOW
I DON'T SEE HOW HIS TEMPORARY ABSENCE WOULD CREATE A PROBLEM.
...FLEW THE COOP AGAIN! SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?!
IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT FUJI...
WELL, YOU DON'T KNOW HIM LIKE I DO!

THEY FOUND THEM, LEE.
...ALONG WITH ANOTHER MALE VAMPIRE.
THE SERVANT WOMAN AND HER SERVANT, THE CROW...
...THE LAW IS THE LAW.
NO MATTER HOW MANY WOULD-BE VAMPIRES ARE RUNNING AROUND...
BE THAT AS IT MAY, OUR MISSION REMAINS UNCHANGED.
... INFORMATION WAS GROSSLY EXAGGERATED.
OUR DEAR LEADER WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE RUMORED VAST NUMBER OF SERVANTS IN THIS AREA... BUT IT SEEMS THAT...

SURE, I'VE FELT THE CRAVING TO DRINK HUMAN BLOOD ..MANY TIMES. BUT I FOUND THAT IF I TRIED...
...I COULD.
...RE-STRAINING MYSELF ...
...VAMPIRES CANNOT INGEST...
...THE SAME FOOD HUMANS CAN...
WHAT?
.....
SCUFF
OF COURSE ...
...BUT I BELIEVE THAT TAKEN IN SMALL QUANTITIES... YOUR BODY WOULDN'T REBEL AGAINST...
...VITAMINS, SUPPLEMENTS, MEDICINE, THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

NATURALLY.
HE'S A CROW, YES, BUT HE'S ALSO A VAMPIRE.
THERE'S NOTHING NATURAL ABOUT IT!
EAT NOTHING AT ALL ...?
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'D DIE IF HE DIDN'T EAT ANYTHING!
HE JUST NEEDS SELF-CONTROL IS ALL!
WELL, I'M FINE.
EVER SINCE I WAS TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE...
...MY BODY HAS... REJECTED NORMAL FOOD.

IF I BUMP INTO YOUR CROW...
...I'LL SUGGEST THAT HE FLY BACK TO THE ROOST.
.....
SAKAKI...
...HAS OFFERED TO LEND ME HIS STRENGTH...

BE CAREFUL.
REALLY?
YOU MAY THINK A STARVATION DIET ISN'T FATAL TO VAMPIRES...
...BUT IF YOUR LIFE FORCE DROPS TO NIL, YOU ABSOLUTELY WILL DIE.
WAIT! THEN THAT MEANS...
...EVEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRINK...
I BEG YOUR PARDON...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE YOUR STRONG SELF-DISCIPLINE.
AND OUT OF THE TWO OF US...
...IT IS YOU WHO ARE THE UNUSUAL ONE.

...I FEEL...
...WEAK AT THE KNEES...
SO YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO SHOW, EH?
...I'M SCARED...
...TERRIFIED.

...BECAUSE...
...HE ALSO...
...AND I KNOW...
...WANTS VENGEANCE AGAINST ROO.
...I KNOW THAT IF I ACCEPT HIS OFFER TO HELP...
I WANTED TO FACE ROO ALONE...
...TOGETHER WE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO DEFEAT ROO.
...WHENEVER I LOOK INTO HIS EYES...
YET...
...BUT I'M WEAK... SO WEAK...

OOOOO
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
WHAT IS THAT... ...SOUND ...?
SWISH
FLAP
KYAA!
INSTEAD OF WORRYING YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE...
BATS ?!
WHAT ARE THESE ...?!

OOOOO

SLASH!
Khuu...
FLUTTER
SLASH
Khuu...
FLAP
FLAP

...YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT LOSING IT!

FU!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE STANDIN' AROUND WITH YOUR JAW GAPIN' OPEN!
YOU THINK THIS IS, A PICNIC?!
KIIH
JACK-ASS!

TH-THANK YOU...
LISTEN, KID, THAT AIN'T NO SERVANT!
SHE'S A FULL-BLOODED VAMPIRE!
AND SHE'S HERE TO ENFORCE THEIR LAW...
...I.E. KILL YOU!

EH?
BATTLE
THE LAW OF OUR CLAN...
...FORBIDS TURNING HUMANS INTO SERVANTS, YOU SEE.
BUT WHAT A CLEVER CROW.
PERHAPS YOU HAVE EAVES-DROPPED ON OUR CONVER-SATIONS, EH?

NYAA-A!
...I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF FROM FOLLOWING 'EM!
BLAME IT ON YOUR BATS! THEY WERE FLYING AROUND SO SUSPI-CIOUSLY...
AND ANOTHER THING I HEARD...
...A LONG TIME AGO...
I WAS WONDERING WHERE HE FLEW OFF TO...

SO, NO, YOUR MASTER WON'T BE COMING FOR YOU, NOW OR EVER
IF SO, IT TRULY IS A WASTE OF TIME, FOR I'M SURE MY COLLEAGUE HAS ALREADY FINISHED TAKING CARE OF HIM.
SERVANTS ARE ONLY THE SYMPTOMS. WE MUST ALSO ATTACK THE ROOT CAUSE... THE ONE WHO MADE YOU.
...YOU MEAN...
MY MASTER...

ENOUGH TALK!
IF YOU'RE SCARED, YOU MAY FLY AWAY, CROW.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO STRIKE DOWN A SIMPLE BIRD THIS EVENING
LISTEN, LADY, YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE!!
THE VAMPIRE WHO TURNED ME INTO A SERVANT IS-
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SAKAKI! AND HE HASN'T COMMITTED ANY OF YOUR CRIMES!

IN FACT, I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOUR LAW.
...IS THAT YOU VAMPS ARE NEVER, EVER... ...SUPPOSED TO MATE WITH HUMANS!
.....
WELL, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WE DO HAVE MORE THAN ONE LAW.
...BUT THE REASONING...
BEHIND BOTH OF THESE IS THE SAME. SIMPLY PUT, OUR BLOOD TURNS HUMANS INTO SAVAGES.
SURELY NOT A GOOD THING FOR EITHER HUMANS OR VAMPIRES.
AND SO WE DO WHAT WE MUST...
WE EXTERMINATE THEM.
INTERESTING. YOU CHOOSE TO TALK INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FLEE.
MAYBE TRYING TO BUY YOURSELF SOME TIME UNTIL THE VAMPIRE OVER THERE COMES SWOOPING TO YOUR RESCUE?

SPLAT!
HE DID THIS ...?!
LEE?
CONVENIENT, ISN'T IT?
NO MESSY CORPSES TO CLEAN UP WHEN A VAMPIRE DIES.
DRIP

HOUND
...WHO'S HEADED THIS WAY!
ME? SCARED OF YOU? RIDICULOUS!
THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE ON THIS EARTH I'M SCARED OF...THIS SERVANT WHEN SHE BLOWS HER STACK ...
FLAP
...AND THE FREAKISHLY POWERFUL VAMPIRE...
FLUTTER

...HE LIKELY WOULDN'T HAVE DIED.
ALTHOUGH, IF MY OPPONENT HAD BEEN A BIT HEARTIER ...
IT WAS KILL OR BE KILLED.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU MEAN... YOU KILLED ...
...HIM?

...THEY CAN EXPECT TO BE GUTTED!
BUT IF THEY THROW WEAKLINGS AT ME...

CORPSE ...? SAKAKI ...

UWAA!!
I ASSURE YOU, I AM AS OLD AS I LOOK AND NO MORE.
I'M GOING TO KILL HER FOR YOU.
STOP IT!
SA-KAKI !!
AFTER ALL, THAT WAS HER INTENT...
...REGARDING YOU.

RD
WHA--!
UNHH... NNN...
ONLY IF YOU WERE ...'BOUT A HUNDRED YEARS OLD...
IS THAT RIGHT?
SHOULDN'T ...HAVE THIS... KIND OF POWER!
FOG ...?

THEY ALREADY KILLED ME ONCE...
...BECAUSE OF THEIR ABSURD "LAW!"
ALL BECAUSE MY MOTHER...
...WAS HUMAN!

HOW CAN YOU MURDER SOMEONE, JUST LIKE THAT?!
DOESN'T IT EVEN BOTHER YOU?!
I DON'T KNOW..
..HOW YOU CAN SAY THAT!
FELLOW VAMPIRE, ISN'T SHE?!
AFTER ALL SHE'S A...
NO, ACTUALLY.
MY CONSCIENCE DOESN'T PLAGUE ME IN THE LEAST.

ROD....
HE MURDERED ME...
ONLY...
...I WOULDN'T DIE.
...AND MY PARENTS.

HALF-BREED...
AND I'LL SHARE ANOTHER PIECE OF MY HISTORY
TAK
ROD WAS THE ONE WHO "VISITED" ME AND MY FAMILY.
HE CAME, DID HIS DIRTY WORK AND LEFT.

SAKAKI!
KIP
AAAGH!
SO, NO, WHEN I KILL THEM...
...I FEEL NOTHING.
I GUESS... I SHOULD EXPECT TO DIE...
LEE...
...IF YOU WERE ABLE TO...
...KILL EVEN LEE, THEN I...I...
BUT...
...SAKAKI...
LEE...

I REFUSED ...
...TO DIE.

ALL RIGHT, SAKAKI.
...GO RIGHT AHEAD.
IF YOU WANT TO KILL HER THAT BADLY...
BUT KNOW THAT IF SHE DOES DIE BY YOUR HAND...
CANON ...?
DON'T THERE I'VE HEARD YOU SAY ANY THING LIKE THAT BEFORE

SAKAKI...!
SAKAKI!
WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW...
...IS... IS...!

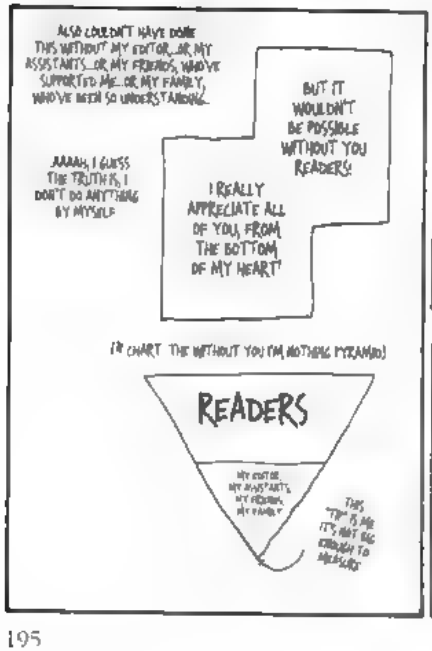
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN KILL SOMEONE WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!
WHAT YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW IS JUST AS BAD AS WHAT ROD DID!

...I'M GOING TO...
...KILL YOU!

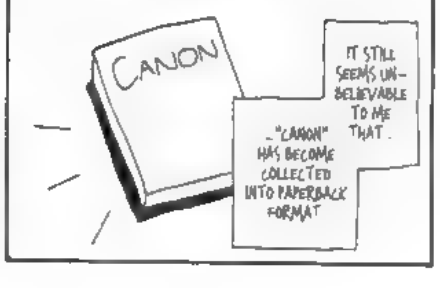
I DUNNO, LETTING THAT VAMP GET AWAY...
... SURE HOPE SAKAKI KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOIN'...
I... ...I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THAT...
NO, OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T, LITTLE MISS MARY SUNSHINE!
...IT'S GONNA BE OPEN SEASON ON HIM.
...'CAUSE WHEN THE REST OF 'EM FIND OUT THE HALF-BREED DIDN'T BITE THE DUST...

SAKAKI...
H-HEY, CANON DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
I'LL TELL YOU...
...ONE MORE TIME.
... DON'T... DO IT.
PLEASE ... ... DON'T ...

SHIOMI'S THRILLING EVERYDAY AFFAIRS
SHE LOOKS A LITTLE MORE LIKE AN ADULT HERE, BUT THIS IS CANON.


ALSO COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT MY EDITOR...OR MY ASSISTANTS...OR MY FRIENDS, WHO'VE SUPPORTED ME...OR MY FAMILY, WHO'VE BEEN SO UNDERSTANDING...
BUT IT WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU READERS!
I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!
AAAAH, I GUESS THE TRUTH IS, I DON'T DO ANYTHING BY MYSELF
(A CHART THE WITHOUT YOU I'M NOTHING PYRAMID)
READERS
MY EDITOR, MY ASSISTANTS, MY FRIENDS, MY FAMILY
THIS "TOP" IS ME. IT'S NOT BIG ENOUGH TO MESSAGE!

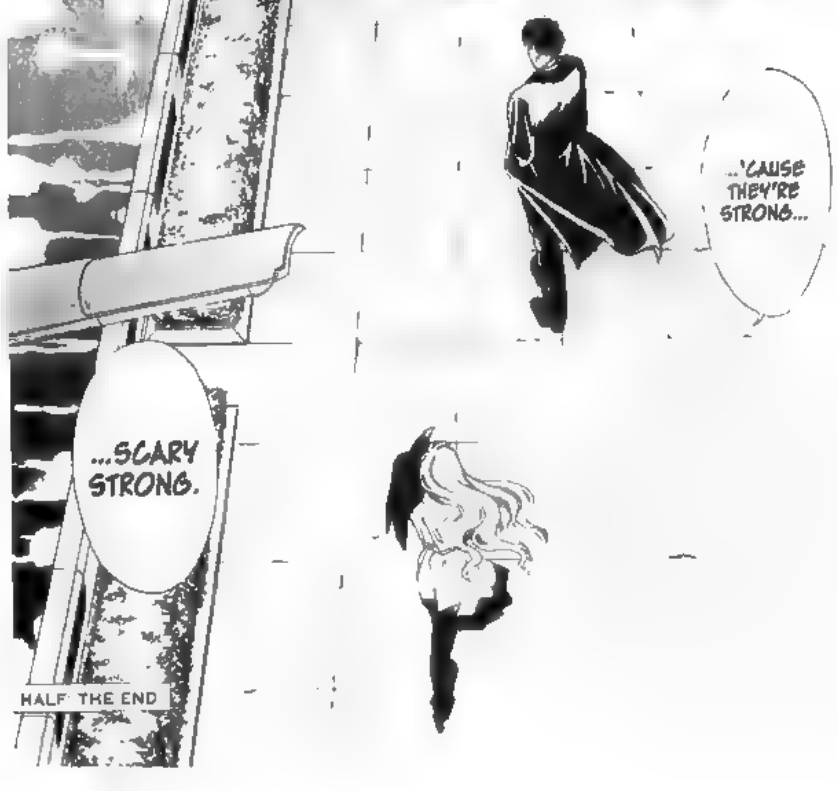
I'M SHIOMI.
HELLO!
NICE TO MEET YOU

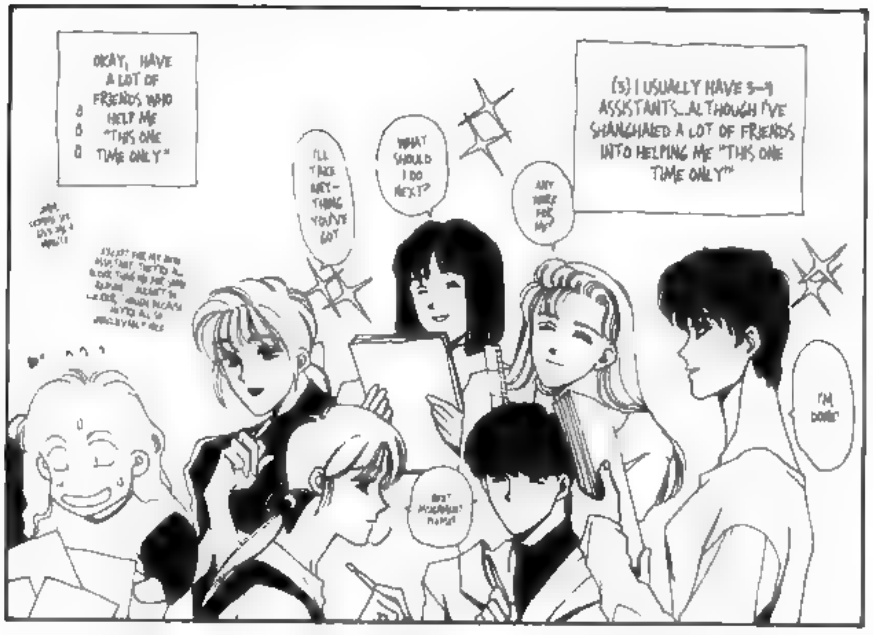

CANON
IT STILL SEEMS UNBELIEVABLE TO ME THAT...
..."CANON" HAS BECOME COLLECTED INTO PAPERBACK FORMAT

THE REAL REASON VAMPIRES ARE AFRAID OF VAMP/HUMAN COMBOS...

AH, WELL...
...GUESS THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY

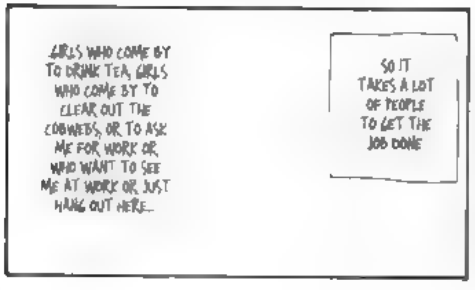
BET YOU FIGURED IT OUT, TOO, DIDN'T YOU...
EH...?
...CANON?

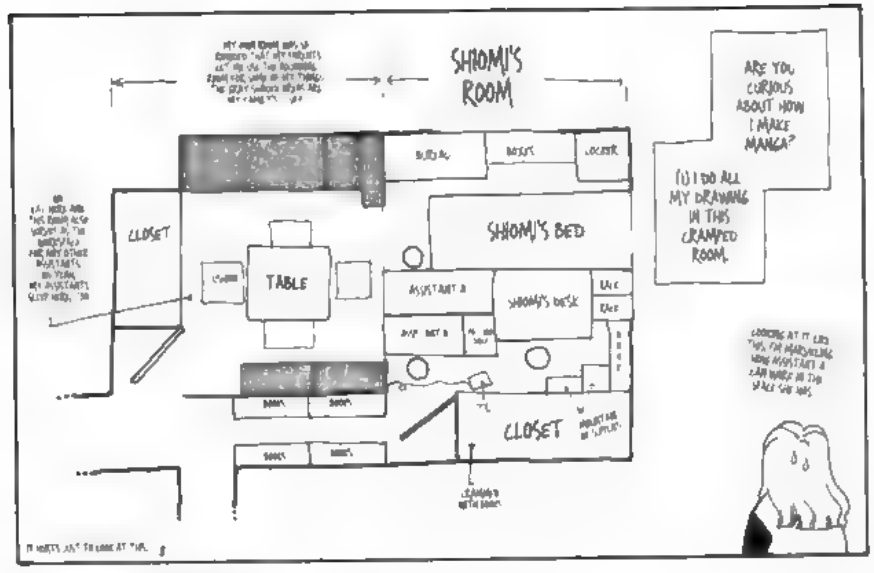

...'CAUSE THEY'RE STRONG...
...SCARY STRONG.
HALF THE END


OKAY, I HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS WHO HELP ME "THIS ONE TIME ONLY"
(S) I USUALLY HAVE 3-4 ASSISTANTS...ALTHOUGH I'VE SHANGHAIED A LOT OF FRIENDS INTO HELPING ME "THIS ONE TIME ONLY"
I'LL TAKE ANY-THING YOU'VE GOT
WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?
ANY WORK FOR ME?
I'M DONE!
NOT MUCH MANGA PAPER

L-LET ME JOIN YOU GUYS
MY HOUSE ALSO GETS A LOT OF VISITS FROM GIRLS WHO DO OFFICE DUTIES, GIRLS WHO RESEARCH STUFF FOR ME...
GIGGLE GIGGLE
AH, YOU GET TO WORK!

ACTUALLY SHE'S MY MANAGER, ADVISOR, ASSISTANT AND GOOD FRIEND, EVEN THOUGH HER REAL JOB IS INTERIOR ADVISOR.
BUT THERE'S ONE PERSON, SAGARA, WHO ACTS AS MY STAFF OFFICER
EYAAH! I'M DOOMED!
DON'T WORRY WE'LL GET OUT OF IT SOMEHOW
I'LL GET US OUT OF IT WITH A CALM DOWN


GIRLS WHO COME BY TO DRINK TEA, GIRLS WHO COME BY TO CLEAR OUT THE COBWEBS, OR TO ASK ME FOR WORK OR, WHO WANT TO SEE ME AT WORK OR, JUST HANG OUT HERE...
SO IT TAKES A LOT OF PEOPLE TO GET THE JOB DONE


SHIOMI'S ROOM
CLOSET
TABLE
SHIOMI'S BED
ASSISTANT A
SHIOMI'S DESK
CLOSET
ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT HOW I MAKE MANGA?
(1) I DO ALL MY DRAWING IN THIS CRAMPED ROOM.
LOOKING AT IT LIKE "HM, I'M MARVELING HOW ASSISTANT A CAN WORK IN THE SPACE SHE HAS.

MY "RIGHT HAND DRAWINGS" ARE KIND OF K.K.
BUT WHENEVER I'M WORKING SO HARD THAT MY LEFT HAND HURTS TOO MUCH TO HOLD A PEN.
...BUT WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?! MY LEFT HAND HURTS AND, DON'T HAVE TIME!
I LET MY RIGHT HAND TAKE OVER THIS DRAWING SO HAVING A CERTAIN DEGREE OF AMBIDEXTERITY IS CONVENIENT
YOU CALL THIS CRYING?
CANON
(2) I'M, LEFT-HANDED BUT I DO MOST OF MY WRITING WITH MY RIGHT HAND
DRAW WITH MY LEFT HAND

THESE ARE REALLY MESSY.
WOW, UP ALL NIGHT DRAWING
WHAT WERE YOU DOING JUST RIGHT?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH SINCE YESTERDAY
BUT I'M SLOW WHEN IT COMES TO SKETCHING.